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CONCESSIONS MADE TO PRODUCERS IN HUNGARY

Summary: The government's increased pressure on producers and uneasiness about the independent peasants are reflected in the articles summarized below. The first article admits that independent producers have been forced to deliver produce in excess of their quotas and have been deprived of free market rights illegally. It cites the government's determination to establish a simplified delivery program and to punish those who disregard the rights of independent producers.

The second article tells of the Council of Ministers' decision to waive fines levied on producers in arrears with deliveries, provided that certain amounts of produce are delivered within a specified time. It also reveals that fines for non-delivery of produce are to be collected in the form of taxes.7

DEPLORES ABUSE OF PRODUCE DELIVERY REGULATIONS -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 3 May 53

Failure to understand that produce delivery regulations were designed to benefit the agricultural sector as well as the workers has led to certain abuses which must be punished and eliminated.

Independent producers in some communities were denied, either through ignorance or malice, the right to sell their produce on the free market despite the fact that they had completed their delivery obligations. In several communities, producers and producers cooperatives were compelled to surrender produce in excess of their quotas.

Where such abuses occur regularly, the working peasants have no confidence in the state, although the abuses are frequently instigated by the enemy. Unfortunately, shortsighted officials often tolerate acts of this nature under the misapprehension that extra produce is an advantage to the state whether or not it is acquired legally. That such acts can occur with official sanction damages the state as well as the working peasants.

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In its pre-election appeal, the government reaffirms its determination to punish ruthiessly those bureaucrats who break the law and ignore the rights of independent producers. To eliminate further abuses, the government has decided to establish a new and simplified system of produce collection which will permit the producer to know, several years in advance, exactly what deliveries are required of him. Such a delivery program will put a stop to the persistent rumors spread by the kulaks who try to frighten the working persants by intimating that next year's delivery quotas will be so high that nothing will remain for the producer.

At present it frequently happens that the enemy who has infiltrated the local councils deliberately creates confusion in the produce delivery records. The inexperience of the council leaders, many of whom were formerly simple peasants or workers, makes it possible for mistakes to remain undetected and is often actually the cause of the mistakes. Consequently, working peasants who have completed their delivery obligations are occasionally required to surrender excess produce.

Since the new system will establish quotas for several years in advance and will state them in a simplified manner, producers will be able to check on the work of the councils, bookkeeping will be clarified, and all producers will be able to demand redress if they are wronged.

WAIVES FINES FOR PRODUCERS -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 4 Apr 53

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The 1953 decree on agricultural produce collection states that producers in arrears with deliveries who fail to turn in the required produce, even after they have been penalized by having their quotas raised by 10 percent, will have to pay damages. The Ministry of Produce Collection will assess the amount to be paid, which will then be collected in the form of taxes.

However, the Council of Ministers has decided that the payment of damages will be waived in the case of producers and producers' cooperatives completing deliveries as follows:

The entire quota of milk, eggs, and poultry for the period 1 January 1953 - 1 May 1953, delivered not later than 1 May 1953, or

The entire quota of wine, potators, hogs, and beef cattle for 1952 - 1953 and the entire quota of milk, eggs, and poultry for the first 6 months of 1953, delivered not later than 1 June 1953, or

The entire quota of wheat, rye, barley, and oats for 1953 - 1954 plus the entire quota of milk, eggs, and poultry for the period 1 January - 1 September 1953, delivered not later than 20 August 1953, or

The entire quota of corn, potatoes, and sunflower seed for 1953 - 1954 plus the entire quota of milk, eggs, and poultry for the period 1 January 1953 - 31 October 1953, delivered not later than 7 November 1953, or

The entire quota of fatted hogs for the third quarter of 1953, delivered not later than 7 November 1953.

MISINTERPRET DECISION TO WAIVE FINES -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 11 Apr 53

Some of the local councils have failed to understand that the Council of Ministers' decision to waive the payment of damages in the case of producers or producers' cooperatives when certain conditions have been fulfilled applies to past damages as well as those assessed for this year.

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Furthermore, the local councils have not realized that damages must be waived for fulfilling any one, not all, of the conditions listed by the Council α Ministers.

It is the duty of the local councils to familiarize themselves with the decision as quickly as possible, so that they can interpret and implement it correctly.

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